

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 00978 281318Z

46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 AGR-05 SP-02 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, CE

SUBJ: PL 480 RICE FOR SRI LANKA

REFS: STATE 61119, STATE 68737.

1. DURING MY MARCH 28 CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE, AFTER DISCUSSION RECENT AID AND PL 480 AGREEMENTS (SEPTTEL), I ALLUDED TO HER EARLIER REQUEST FOR PUMPS, EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS TO ASSIST IN GSL'S FOOD PRODUCTION EFFORT. I RECALLED THAT I HAD EARLIER EXPLAINED REASONS WHY IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO MODIFY FERTILIZER LOAN TO INCLUDE ITEMS REQUESTED AND NOTED THAT, MEANWHILE, GSL APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN OFFERED LARGE NUMBER OF PUMPS AND SOME EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. PRIME MINISTER AGREED THIS WAS CASE, COMMENTING IN PARTICULAR ON LARGE CAPACITY OF PUMPS WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN OFFERED BY NORTH KOREA.

2. I THEN RECALLED THAT LAST YEAR SHE HAD ASKED WHETHER US COULD PROVIDE SRI LANKA WITH RICE AND THAT I HAD THEN INDICATED THAT RICE FROM US DID NOT SEEM POSSIBLE (COLOMBO 446, FEB 15, 1974). I WAS STILL NOT

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CERTAIN THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY RICE BUT WE

HAD BEEN ASKED TO EXPLORE WITH HER GOVERNMENT WHETHER IT MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN RICE ON PL 480 TERMS IF RICE SUPPLIES SHOULD PROVE TO BE AVAILABLE. I ALSO RECALLED THAT WE HAD SUPPLIED RICE MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO BUT SOME DIFFICULTIES HAD ARISEN BECAUSE TYPE OF RICE WAS NOT SUITABLE TO CEYLONSE PALATES. CONSEQUENTLY, IF THERE WERE ANY RICE WE WOULD HAVE TO INSURE IN ADVANCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PALATABILITY PROBLEMS.

3. PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR USG'S WILLINGNESS EXPLORE RICE QUESTION AND SAID SHE BELIEVED GSL STILL REQUIRED ADDITIONAL RICE. IF SO, IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE INTERESTED IN LIBERAL TERMS PROVIDED UNDER PL 480. SHE SAID SHE WOULD CHECK INTONAAL REQUIREMENTS AND LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER SHORTFALL STILL EXISTED. SHE UNDERSTOOD OUR INQUIRY WAS ON TENTATIVE AND EXPLORATORY BASIS.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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